

REMARKS

In reviewing the present application prior to payment of the issue fee, Applicant has become aware of some minor errors in the claim language, and in the format of the claims. Therefore, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.312, Applicant herein submits several minor amendments to the claims for entry prior to issuance of the application. Specifically, Applicant has amended Claim 6 to correctly recite the element as a "gas nozzle," and has deleted the reference numerals within the claims for consistency.

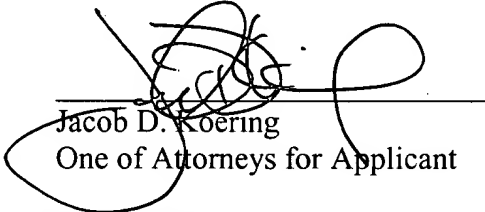
The above amendments do not substantively change the content of the claims at all, but are merely clerical in nature. Applicant therefore respectfully requests entry of the above amendments, and then issuance of the application as a patent.

Should anything further be required, a telephone call to the undersigned, at (312) 226-1818, is respectfully invited.

Respectfully submitted,

FACTOR & LAKE, LTD.

Dated: April 7, 2004



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 7, 2004.



Jacob D. Koering